

Amendments to the Claims

There are no amendments to the claims. The claims are provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (ORIGINAL) An information delivery system, comprising:

a postage system configured to apply postage and a network address to objects in a postage field on the objects wherein the postage field comprises an area reserved on the objects for the postage and wherein the objects are delivered to users; and

a server system configured to receive a first message over the Internet from one of the users, wherein the first message is addressed to the network address, process the first message to retrieve information, and transfer the information in a second message over the Internet to the one of the users.

2. (ORIGINAL) The information delivery system of claim 1 wherein the postage system is further configured to apply the network address in the postage field at a consistent location on the objects to enable the users to automatically scan the postage field for the network address.

3. (ORIGINAL) The information delivery system of claim 1 further comprising a user system configured to automatically scan the network address from the postage field, generate the first message, and transfer the first message over the Internet.

4. (ORIGINAL) The information delivery system of claim 1 wherein the postage system comprises a postage printing device configured to receive weight information for the objects and apply the postage based on the weight information.

5. (ORIGINAL) The information delivery system of claim 1 wherein the network address comprises an Internet address.

6. (ORIGINAL) The information delivery system of claim 1 wherein the network address comprises a domain name.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method of operating an information delivery system, the method comprising:

applying postage and a network address to objects in a postage field on the objects wherein the postage field comprises an area reserved on the objects for the postage and wherein the objects are delivered to users;

receiving a first message over the Internet from one of the users wherein the first message is addressed to the network address;

processing the first message to retrieve information; and

transferring the information in a second message over the Internet to the one of the users..

8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 further comprising applying the network address to the objects at a consistent location in the postage field to enable the users to automatically scan the postage field for the network address.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 further comprising automatically scanning the network address from the postage field, generating the first message, and transferring the first message over the Internet.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 further comprising receiving weight information for the objects and applying the postage based on the weight information.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the network address comprises an Internet address.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 wherein the network address comprises a domain name.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 7 further comprising generating a postmark that includes the network address.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13 further comprising paying a delivery service to cancel the postage using the postmark that includes the network address.

15. (ORIGINAL) A software product for a processing system that is configured to operate with a postage system, the software product comprising:

application software configured when executed by the processing system to direct the processing system to generate an instruction to apply postage and a network address to objects in a postage field on the objects wherein the postage field comprises an area reserved on the objects for the postage and wherein the objects are delivered to users, transfer the instruction to the postage system, receive a first message over the Internet from one of the users wherein the first message is addressed to the network address, process the first message to retrieve information, and transfer the information in a second message over the Internet to the one of the users; and a storage media configured to store the application software.

16. (ORIGINAL) The software product of claim 15 wherein the application software is further configured to direct the processing system to generate the instruction to apply the network address at a consistent location in the postage field to enable the users to automatically scan the postage field for the network address.

17. (ORIGINAL) The software product of claim 15 wherein the application software is further configured to direct the processing system to receive weight information for the objects, generate a postage instruction based on the weight information, and transfer the postage instruction to the postage system.

18. (ORIGINAL) The software product of claim 15 wherein the network address comprises an Internet address.

19. (ORIGINAL) The software product of claim 15 wherein the network address comprises a domain name.

20. (ORIGINAL) The software product of claim 15 wherein the application software is further configured to direct the processing system to change the network address applied to the objects.

The recent Office Action also states the following. "Within the body of the claims, nowhere is it cited that "displaying the amount of money that has been paid for the package to be delivered" is a main focal point of the invention." This statement is incorrect. The claims clearly require the application of "postage" to the package. The Application clearly defines "postage" in an industry-standard manner as the amount of money that has been paid for the package to be delivered. The Applicant should not be required to define well-understood terms in the body of the claims.

If claims 1-20 were rejected under section 103, Knowles would still fall well short of the claimed invention. Knowles is a package tracking and delivery system. Knowles provides information about the package by placing a bar-encoded URL on the package. The bar-encoded URL may be scanned by delivery staff to retrieve the information over the Internet.

Knowles does not teach or suggest placing the bar-encoded URL in the postage field of the package. First, Knowles teaches away from this claim limitation by teaching that the bar-encoded URL be placed "randomly" on the package. (See Knowles column 23, lines 7-9). Second, random placement of the bar-encoded URL in the postage field would eventually cause the bar-encoded URL to improperly overwrite the postage. Neither Knowles nor one skilled in the art would allow a randomly placed barcode to overwrite the postage.

*Knowles does not discuss postage or postage fields. It is improper to solve this problem by using hindsight reasoning to improperly attribute the invention to Knowles. Knowles places bar-encoded URLs on packages that might have a postage field, but Knowles does not teach or suggest placing the bar-encoded URL in the postage field, and in fact, Knowles teaches away from placing the bar-encoded URL in the postage field. The placement of a URL in the postage field should be attributed to Applicant.*

The same reasoning applies to claims 2-20.